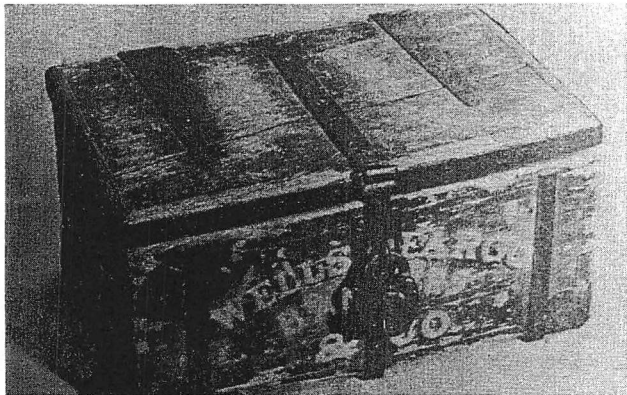
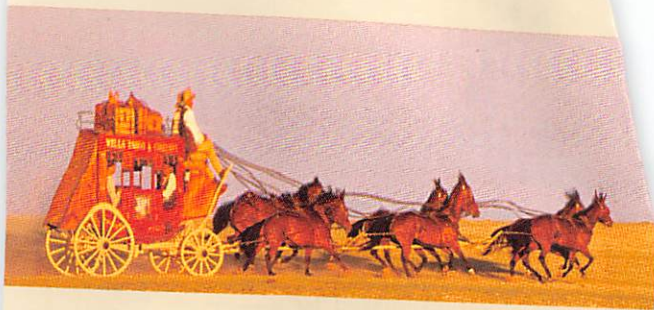

THROW DOWN THE BOX!



The famous Wells Fargo treasure box. Made of wood, it did little to deter road agents.

Helping You Reach The Next Stage. Safely And Securely



ATMs. Direct Deposit. Online Banking and Bill Payment. All of these are technological changes that were new at one time, and are now part of our daily lives... and have made banking safer and more convenient than ever before.

What's next? A new federal law called *Check 21*, or *The Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act*.

This new law is designed to increase the efficiency and security of the national check payment system through the use of electronic image technology. As a result of this change, information about your checks will be provided to you differently than before – in a way that can help you enjoy greater control and ease in managing your account.

At Wells Fargo, we're committed to making this change easy for you, and keeping you informed as we prepare for the next stage of banking technology.

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- Check 21 specifies that an electronic check will be the legal equivalent of the original check for all purposes. The original check must be accepted in the same way as the original.
- Because your original canceled checks may no longer be returned to Wells Fargo, we won't be able to return them to you in the same form as today. Instead we will soon provide customers with convenient Check Image Statements.

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payment.

Other Ways Your Payments May Be Processed Electronically

view: Page Statement

There are additional industry-wide changes to payment processing that you may have already noticed. In these cases, the original checks write may not be returned to you.

- When you make a payment or pay a bill by check, the company you're paying may shred your check and process your payment electronically. This is called Accounts Receivable Conversion or "ARC."
- When you pay for purchases at a merchant, the merchant may scan your check and convert it to an electronic payment on your receipt. This is referred to as a Point-of-Purchase conversion or "POP."

When you get your statement to make it reconcile your account, and to help you look for new notations and a statement coming soon.

Check 21 Act At A Glance

- When you make a payment by check, it may be handled by several banks or other financial institutions before actually posting to your account.
- Starting October 2004, the process may involve the original check being shredded.



News About The New Federal "Check 21" Act, And What You'll See As A Wells Fargo Customer
 Plus: New Check Image Statements



Helping You Reach The Next Stage... Safely And Securely



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What's next? A new federal law called *Check 21*, or *The Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act*.

This new law is designed to increase the efficiency and security of the national check payment system through the use of electronic image technology. As a result of this change, information about your checks will be provided to you differently than before – in a way that can help you enjoy greater control and ease in managing your account.

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Other Ways Your Payments May Be Processed Electronically

There are additional industry-wide changes to payment processing that you may have already noticed. In these cases, the original checks you write may not be returned to you.

- When you make a payment or pay a bill by check, the company you're paying may shred your check and process your payment electronically. This is called Accounts Receivable Conversion or "ARC."
- When you pay for purchases at a merchant location, the merchant may scan your check and convert it to an electronic payment on the spot. You'll be asked to sign an authorization and you'll receive your original check back, along with your receipt. This is referred to as Point-of-Purchase conversion or "POP."

We're updating your statement to make it easier to reconcile your account, and to help you recognize these ARC and POP transactions as they occur. Look for new notations and a new section on your statement coming soon.

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**WELLS
FARGO**

Bringing You The Information You Need



**News About The
New Federal "Check 21" Act,
And What You'll See As A
Wells Fargo Customer**



Plus: New Check Image Statements

A Safe And Streamlined Way To Process Checks

Check 21 Act At A Glance

- When you make a payment by check, it may be handled by several banks or other financial institutions before it actually posts to your account.
- Starting October 28, 2004, any bank or financial institution involved in this process may choose to replace your original check with a “substitute check” – a copy made from the electronic image of the original check.
- *Check 21* specifies that a substitute check will be the legal equivalent of the original check for all purposes, and must be accepted in the same way as the original.
- Because your original canceled checks may no longer be returned to Wells Fargo, we won't be able to return them to you in the same form as today. Instead we will soon provide customers with convenient Check Image Statements.

Fact:

Many Bank Customers Nationwide Now Have Their Canceled Checks Stored By The Bank

...Including 75% of Wells Fargo checking customers. It's simple, convenient and secure. And now, starting in November, you will view your canceled checks in a whole new way with the Wells Fargo Check Image Statements. Here are the benefits you'll receive:

- **Save space.** There are no canceled checks to file or store. Instead, you'll receive reduced images of your canceled checks and substitute checks included automatically with your monthly statement.
- **Save time.** You can view all of your canceled checks at a glance. If you need a larger copy, you can visit a branch or call 1-800-869-3557.
- **Save effort.** Your checks will be sorted by check number and returned in sequence. This provides you with the information you need, organized for instant reference.

In addition: You'll be able to view images of your paid checks online – whenever you choose. It's a safe and confidential way to keep track of your account, and you can print out the front and back of your paid checks as proof of payment. Watch for details on wellsfargo.com.

Preview:

Wells Fargo Check Image Statement



This sample shows six images to a page. Other Check Image Statement formats are also available. In the coming months, you'll receive more information about the options available for your account.

If You Have Questions

- **Call us at 1-800-TO-WELLS (1-800-869-3557)**
- **Visit your Wells Fargo banking store**

(see back panel)